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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

REPORT

of the



Medical Officer of Health

and the

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1962



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

---

R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the

YEAR 1962



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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

Chairman of the Council : Mr. C.D. White, C.C., J.P.

HEALTH AND SEWERAGE COMMITTEE

Chairman

Councillor T.C. Costello

Councillor J.D. Blease  
Councillor H. Dale  
Councillor W. Faulkner  
Councillor Mrs. B.W. Moore  
Councillor J.A. Powell  
Councillor C.D. White

Councillor F. Buckley  
Councillor F. Dodd  
Councillor W. Healey  
Councillor J. Moss  
Councillor G.J.F. Stallard

S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health

W.S. Slater, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H., Retired: 31. 5. 62.

F. Seymour, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., Appointed: 13. 8. 62

Other Appointments: The Medical Officer of Health is  
also Medical Officer of Health for Northwich Rural  
District Council, Northwich Urban District Council  
and Winsford Urban District Council

and Divisional Medical Officer to the  
Mid-Cheshire Division

Public Health Inspector

F. Costello



URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MIDDLEWICH

Telephone No. : Northwich 4251/2

Hartford Hill,  
David Street,  
NORTHWICH,  
Cheshire.

June, 1963.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Middlewich Urban District Council.

Dear Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the  
environmental health and sanitary circumstances of the Council's  
district for the year 1962.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Costello for  
his co-operation and help since I was appointed and also to the  
Council's other officials.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

F. SEYMOUR.

Medical Officer of Health

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SECTION I

GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

(1) GENERAL STATISTICS

Population (estimated mid-year 1962)	7,060
Area (acres of District)	1,971
Number of inhabited dwellings	2,282
Rateable Value of Area	£91,009
Product of Penny Rate, 1962/63	£384

Comparative Statistics - 1961/2

	Year	
	1961	1962
Population	6,940	7,060
Rateable Value	£90,477	£91,009
Product of Penny Rate	£373	£370
Number of inhabited dwellings	2,174	2,282

(2) VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	60	47	107
Illegitimate	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
	<u>62</u>	<u>48</u>	<u>110</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population			15.6
+Corrected Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 0.99)			15.4
Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total births			2.7

+ see Page 2.

<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	2	2	4

<u>Infant Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Deaths of infants under 1 year of age	2	-	2
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	-	-	-
Deaths of infants under 1 week of age	-	-	-
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live births	...	...	18.2

Maternal Mortality (including abortion)

Maternal Deaths      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...      Nil

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
All causes	48	32	80
Death Rate per 1,000 population      ...      ...			11.3
+Corrected Death Rate per 1,000 population (Comparability Factor 1.21)			13.7

+ NOTE:

The corrected birth and death rates are those which are obtained when the crude local rates are adjusted to make allowance for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales. The corrected rates are comparable with the crude rates for England and Wales, and the corresponding adjusted rates for any other area.

Causes of Death

As will be seen from the following table the two principal causes of death were diseases of the heart and circulation which caused approximately 45% of the deaths, and cancer which caused approximately 16%.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-	-
2. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
3. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	5	-	5
4. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1	1
5. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	4	6
6. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	1	1
7. Vascular lesions of nervous system	6	3	9
8. Coronary disease, angina	7	7	14
9. Other heart disease	7	5	12
10. Other circulatory disease	1	-	1
11. Influenza	-	1	1
12. Pneumonia	4	-	4
13. Bronchitis	6	2	8
14. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
15. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	3	5	8
16. Motor vehicle accidents	1	-	1
17. All other accidents	4	-	4
18. Suicide	-	1	1
	48	32	80

## SECTION II

### HEALTH SERVICES

#### (1) HOSPITAL SERVICES

The Middlewich Urban District lies within the area of the Manchester Regional Hospital Board whose offices are at Cheetwood Road, Manchester, 8. Telephone number - Deansgate 7271.

#### (2) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Specimens and samples taken by the Health Department are submitted for examination at the Chester Public Health Laboratory.

#### (3) AMBULANCE SERVICE

The ambulance service is provided by the County Council and is under radio control from central control at County Hall, Chester. All 999 calls made by members of the public are immediately connected to this central control. The arrangement for non-urgent calls is that the patient or general practitioner should ring the Northwich Depot - Telephone Northwich 3355.

#### (4) MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

This service is provided by the under-mentioned nurses:-

		<u>Telephone No.</u>
Mrs. M. Taylor, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S.,	32, Sutton Lane, Middlewich.	Middlewich 2350
Miss B. Breeze, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S.,	11, Coronation Road, Middlewich.	Middlewich 2549
Mrs. B. Dutton, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N.S., (Relief Nurse)	Walker's Green Farm, Sproston.	Middlewich 174

#### (5) CHILD WELFARE CENTRE AND HEALTH VISITOR

The Health Visitor for the Middlewich Urban District is :-

	<u>Telephone No.</u>
Miss M. Barlow, The Child Welfare Centre, 85 Wheelock Street, MIDDLEWICH.	Middlewich 165

Baby Clinics are held every Monday afternoon between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m., during which hours Welfare and Proprietary Foods are sold to mothers attending the Clinic. On Friday mornings between 9 and 11 Welfare Foods only, i.e. National Dried Milk and Orange Juice, are sold.

(6) Information concerning the other County Health Services in the area such as Home Help, Chiropody Service, Care and After Care equipment etc., can be obtained from the Divisional Medical Office at Hartford Hill, Northwich. Telephone number - Northwich 4251/2.

(7) Middlewich Urban District has its own "Over 60's" Club, which is organised entirely by Voluntary Workers. The Club meets on alternate Wednesdays at 2.30 p.m. at the Congregational Club, and has approximately 130 members.

### S E C T I O N    I I I

#### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 - 1951

##### Section 47

Under this Section when persons (a) are suffering from grave chronic disease or, being aged, infirm or physically incapacitated, are living in insanitary conditions, and (b) are unable to devote to themselves, and are not receiving from other persons, proper care and attention, the local authority may apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order to remove the person to a suitable place.

##### Section 50

Under this Section the District Council has the duty to arrange for the burial of any person who has died in their area, if no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made.

It was not necessary to take any action under either of these Sections during the year.

S E C T I O N    I V

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

(1)    NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The only Infectious Disease notification received during the year was in respect of one case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

The number of patients on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the years:-

<u>1951</u>	<u>1952</u>	<u>1953</u>	<u>1954</u>	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	<u>1957</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>1961</u>	<u>1962</u>
27	29	28	37	30	30	29	26	28	22	24	22

(2)    B.C.G. PROTECTION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

In addition to the B.C.G. protection against tuberculosis as carried out at the local Chest Clinic on actual contacts to cases of tuberculosis and the vaccination of new-born babies at some maternity hospitals in Manchester, the parents of school children of the 12 - 13 years age group in the area are being offered this form of protective treatment. The response to date on the part of the parents to take advantage of this protection for their children has been good.

S E C T I O N     V

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(1)     WATER SUPPLY

The water supply is provided by the Mid & South East Cheshire Water Board. 12 samples taken by the Health Department for bacteriological examination proved satisfactory. Each house has an internal water supply.

In addition to the above your Medical Officer of Health receives from the Water Board copies of the results of all their water sampling. Of 18 samples taken by the Board during the year 5 were unsatisfactory. Following the first unsatisfactory result further samples were taken, some of these also proving unsatisfactory. The Water Board immediately undertook intensive flushing and chlorination of the mains since when all samples have been of the highest quality.

For a few months around the middle of the year many complaints of a brownish discolouration and sediment in the water were received by the Council. This was the result of unanticipated chemical deposition after the water left the Water Works at Hurleston. The fault which had caused this was remedied at source and finally after extensive flushing of the mains this trouble ceased. There was, during this time, no actual danger to the health of the public., but it naturally caused considerable concern. During these incidents your Officers received the fullest co-operation from the Water Board.

(2)     Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Numerous difficulties arose during the year in finalising plans for the new sewerage works and sewers which are urgently needed. Initially, the first phase was intended to cover mainly the South Ward area. After discussions, however, with the Consulting Engineers the Council decided that it was essential to prepare a comprehensive scheme for the whole of the Urban District. The Council is now conferring with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and other interested Authorities on the outline plan prepared by the Consulting Engineers for its finalisation and submission to the Ministry for approval.

The small sewage plant at Cledford received attention on three occasions and, although somewhat overloaded, it continued to function reasonably satisfactorily. The Surveyor has drawn attention to the weak condition of the Sutton Lane sewer due to a general decay of the pipes, running sand and an ever increasing overloading due to new housing development in that area. Trouble may be experienced in this area in the near future.

At the end of the year work was proceeding on the laying of a new sewer to the Cledford Crescent Housing Estate where about 30 houses are to be erected.

### Closet Accommodation

There are only 6 pail closets in the district and these are situated some considerable distances from the existing sewers. When the new sewage scheme is completed it will, however, be possible to convert these to water closets.

### Public Conveniences

Public conveniences are situated in Leadsmithy Street, and during the year a water closet was provided for males at the rear of Victoria Building. In previous years efforts have been made, unsuccessfully, to obtain sites for more public conveniences. Efforts should, however, continue as additional accommodation is desirable.

### 3. REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Karrier dual-tip 18 cubic yard vehicle is now 4 years old but apart from some rear axle trouble which took it off its work for 3 days, it continues to give satisfaction. In May, two of the refuse collectors reached pensionable age and the Council was fortunate in obtaining good re-placements. For the latter part of the year collections varied between 8 to 10 days. One must feel some satisfaction with this period of collection when one considers that (1) the number of men employed on this work has not increased since 1946 (2) in that period the number of houses has increased from 1,800 to 2,282 (3) all new houses have drives which make for more walking and consequent time (4) some 160 of the older type houses mainly in compact rows have been demolished and re-placed with new Council houses and (5) the holiday allocation has increased.

The refuse tip at Croxton was maintained free of nuisance and lends itself to disposal at a very low cost. Income from salvage amounted to £735. 12. 11d, of which 10% is shared amongst the workmen. More than 113 tons of waste paper was disposed of. 82 new dustbins were sold during the year.

### Street Cleansing

The Council purchased a new Johnston Suction vehicle for the cleansing of highways and the emptying of gullies. Your Surveyor expresses satisfaction with this vehicle.

### Recreational Fields and Open Spaces

All playfields and open spaces continued to be well maintained. A small paddling pool provided at Fountain Fields proved to be most popular. Mains water is used, and it is emptied and cleaned once or twice a week according to conditions. Sodium Hypochlorite is used as a sterilising agent.

### Petroleum Storage

Twenty-five licences were issued in 1962 for the bulk storage of petroleum. Two new installations were licenced and one went out of use. New tanks for increased storage were provided at two garages.

## H O U S I N G

### Provision of New Houses

During the year the Council erected 4 three-bedroomed houses and 12 self-contained one-bedroomed flats. These dwellings were used mainly for families from condemned properties and in many cases transfers were made with single occupants and married couples in the larger Council houses, thus making a greater use of available accommodation. It is interesting that these flats, the first to be erected by the Council, were initially viewed with suspicion, and some tenancies accepted with reluctance. However, since then the tenants have expressed their satisfaction and many enquiries have been received for this type of dwelling. In addition to the above the Council erected 2 one-bedroomed bungalows in Queen Street.

98 private houses were erected being mainly in the Manor Park and Sutton Lane areas.

### Housing in General

The number of inhabited houses at the end of the year was 2,282, an increase of 108 over the previous year. When considered in conjunction with an approximate population of 7,000 it will be seen that the average number of persons per dwelling is 3.06 as compared with 3.19 the previous year. Eight houses were demolished during the year. The Council now owns 620 dwellings of which 89 are bungalows, 25 being temporary dwellings. Of these bungalows 30 have one bedroom, 39 are two bedroomed and 20 are three bedroomed. During the year the Council considered the condition of the 25 temporary bungalows and it now appears that the life of them will only be a few more years at the most.

There is little overcrowding in the district and two cases reported to the Council were re-housed. Much overcrowding has been abated by transfers of families already in Council houses. This practice, although causing additional work in the Clerk's and Surveyor's Departments has everything to commend it, since benefits are derived by all persons concerned. The utmost co-operation has been experienced from the departments and officials mentioned.

Under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, the Council has loans outstanding on 204 dwellings, while up to date 58 discretionary and 27 standard grants have been made for the improvement and modernisation of older houses.

The Council's total of 620 dwellings is 27% of all dwellings in the district.

No certificates of disrepair were requested or issued during the year.

### Slum Clearance

The Council's 5 year slum clearance programme, plus nine additional dwellings which were later added, have now been dealt with. At the end of the year only 2 families required to be re-housed. Since 1948, a total of 137 dwellings have been condemned and 32 other houses, mainly sub-standard, have been demolished or converted to other uses.

#### Houses demolished during 1962:-

71 and 73 Sutton Lane,	1, Oddfellows Passage,
96-98 and 100 Booth Lane,	2, Pinfold Lane,
10, Newton Bank,	12, Newton Bank,
1-2 and 3, Hodkinsons Court,	12, Nantwich Road.

No. 14 Kinderton Street and No. 1 Brooks Lane were acquired by the Council for demolition, with a view to widening Brooks Lane junction. Later, proposals were being considered for acquiring all property from Brooks Lane to the Railway Bridge for road widening in Kinderton Street. Nos. 19 and 21 Kinderton Street were acquired by the Council after the consideration of the making of Demolition Orders, together with an adjoining plot of land with a view to the erection of a number of flats on this site. Flats were also being considered for the plot of land Newton Bank, from which area 17 dwellings had been demolished.

#### Housing Notices complied with:-

A defective private sewer serving 28 houses in Cross Lane, with 23 different owners, was repaired by the Council and the charge apportioned after the serving of notices. This private sewer has been giving trouble for some years and a permanent remedy has now been effected.

Other defective drains repaired	...	...	8
Repairs to roofs and spouting..	...	...	3
Repairs to defective closets...	...	...	6
Renewal of dustbins	...	...	82
Cleansing of houses	...	...	3

As a result of the Council's slum clearance schemes and the ever increasing number of owner/occupiers, the number of complaints received grows less each year.

### Caravan Sites

There are no caravan sites in the district.

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

There are no Pet Shops licenced in the district.

Cinemas

There is only one cinema in the district. A Notice was complied with for the repair of the sanitary accommodation. Three inspections were made during the year.

Destruction of Rats and Mice.

All business premises, farms and most dwellings were inspected at least once during the year. Treatments were given as required. Treatments at business premises are charged for but private dwellings are treated free of cost. A 10% test baiting of the sewers showed them to be free from infestation. The rodent operator attended a one-day Refresher Course at Reaseheath College. He is keen on his work and giving every satisfaction. Numerous treatments were given at the refuse tip and sewage works.

Smoke Abatement.

The Alkali Inspectorate have, since 1958, been responsible for control over smoke and grit emission from the furnaces used in the production of salt by the open method. One complaint was received and taken up with the Alkali Inspector who readily co-operates with the department in investigating any complaint. With the closure of the works of the Imperial Chemical Industries an exemption certificate under Section 1 of the Clean Air Act 1956, is no longer required for their furnaces.

Complaints were received concerning the emission of smoke from the furnace chimney of a large joinery works. A mixture of sawdust and coal was used as fuel, the emission of smoke being particularly heavy when the furnace bars were clinkered. In view of the special difficulties consultants were called in by the firm and at the end of the year work was in hand to minimise the nuisance.

SECTION VI

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) MILK

Since the 1st October, 1960, the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations transferred to the County Council the licencing of dealers for the sale of 'Designated Milk', but the responsibility for registration remained that of the Local Authority. 12 dealers are registered. The County Council sample the milk sold by dealers in order to justify the licence and the Local Authority is notified of the results.

36 samples of milk were taken during the year and all of them were satisfactory.

(b) ICE-CREAM

No ice cream is manufactured in the district and the only ice cream sold is pre-wrapped. 16 samples of ice-cream taken in the district were submitted to the Chester Public Health Laboratory. 9 of the samples were in Grade 1 and 7 samples in Grade 2.

(c) MEAT

The 1st January 1962, was fixed by the Ministry as the "appointed day" for the coming into operation of the Construction Regulations. The slaughterhouse occupied by H. Driver could not comply so ceased to be used. The only slaughterhouse in the district is at Newton Hall, the licensee being Mr. J. Moss.

During 1962, 114 visits were made and the Inspectors of the Northwich Rural District deputised for two weeks during the holidays of the Middlewich Public Health Inspector.

No horses are slaughtered in the district.

19 cows and 3 heifers were slaughtered as being T.B. reactors and the only tuberculosis found at inspection was in these reactors.

Tables of Carcasses and Offal  
Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number Killed	116	96	1,593	301	1,613
Number Inspected	116	96	1,593	301	1,613
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS &amp; CYSTICERCI</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	9	2	5	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	24	3	19	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerchi	6.9%	34.75%	0.31%	8%	0.43%
<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1	16	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	0.86%	16.7%	-	-	-
<u>CYSTICERCOSIS:</u>					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	1	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with cysticerchi	-	1.04%	-	-	-

Condemnation notes were issued in respect of one tin of corned beef, 3 tins of carrots and 1 tin of pineapple.

Disposal of unsound food

Condemned meat at the slaughterhouse is stained green and then sold for animal feeding stuffs via an approved agent. Condemned foods at shops are collected and disposed of at the refuse tip.

Food Premises

The under-mentioned food premises are in use in the Middlewich area:-

Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	4
Licensed Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	1
Fish and Chip Shops	....	...	...	...	...	4
Fresh Fish Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Grocery Shops	...	...	...	...	...	32
Greengrocers	...	...	...	...	...	5
Chemists' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	2
Chocolates & Sweets	...	...	...	...	...	6
Public Houses	...	...	...	...	...	14
Clubs & Licensed Bars	...	...	...	...	...	4

These descriptions only indicate the main type of food sold in each shop.

Registered under Section 16, Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

For retail sale of wrapped ice-cream	...	...	...	...	26
For retail sale of sausages, meat pies etc.	...	...	...	...	15
Dairies registered under Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1959-60	...	...	...	...	2
Registered Milk Dealers	...	...	...	...	4

All bakehouses and food premises are regularly inspected and are well maintained.

The following, based upon a statement by the County Council Weights and Measures Inspectors, is a summary of other samples obtained in the Middlewich Urban District during the year, 1962:-

Nature of Samples	Number obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Cream of Tartar B.P.	1	-
Ginger (Ground)	1	-
Jelly (Table) Lemon Flavour	1	-
Lard	1	-
Lemonade	1	-
Milk (Fresh)	15	-
Pepper (White)	1	-
Sausage (Beef)	1	-
Whisky	2	-
TOTAL	24	-

FACTORIES INSPECTION

(1) Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	50	18	2	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	50	18	2	-

(2) Cases in which defects were found:

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temp. (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	-	1	-
(c) Not sep. for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	2	-

Industry:

The works of Imperial Chemical Industries employing about 250 persons, mostly males, closed at the end of the year. Many of the employees were transferred to other works of the Company and a number were prematurely retired on pension. Following meetings of the Council with the Imperial Chemicals Company a promise was made that efforts would be made to sell the site after clearance to industry. A small factory employing about 30 (mostly females) was completed by Messrs. F.A. Coupe & Company at Southway. The Council was also negotiating with another industrial concern for the development of a site in Cledford Lane, but at the end of the year discussions were only in the early stages.

F. SEYMOUR.

Medical Officer of Health.

F. COSTELLO.

Public Health Inspector.



